

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 91-264-C - ORDER NO. 91-697 ✓  
AUGUST 15, 1991

IN RE: Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph	) ORDER APPROVING
Company's Request for Revisions to its	) REVISIONS TO
Access Tariff to Introduce Operator	) ACCESS TARIFF
Transfer Service	)

This matter is before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company's (Southern Bell's or the Company's) request for revisions to its Access Service Tariff to introduce Operator Transfer Service (OTS). As stated in its filing, Southern Bell's OTS offering will provide a means for a Southern Bell operator to route end user customer calls to a subscribing interLATA service provider when the end user requests interLATA service.

The Commission's Executive Director instructed Southern Bell to publish one time a prepared Notice of Filing in the newspapers of general circulation in the affected areas. The purpose of the Notice of Filing was to inform interested parties of Southern Bell's requested tariff revisions and the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for participation in the proceeding. Southern Bell complied with this instruction and provided the Commission with proof of publication of the Notice of

Filing. A Petition to Intervene was filed by Mark B. Allen.

A hearing was commenced on Tuesday, July 2, 1991, at 11:00 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room. The Honorable Henry G. Yonce presided. Fred A. Walters, Esquire, represented Southern Bell; Mark B. Allen appeared pro se; Marsha A. Ward, General Counsel, represented the Commission Staff.

Beth Harber testified on behalf of Southern Bell. Ms. Harber explained that Southern Bell's Operator Transfer Service (OTS) filing introduces a new service which will assist callers in reaching their preferred interexchange carrier operator and will provide interexchange carriers easier access to their customers. Ms. Harber testified that without OTS, if a caller dials "0" and wishes to place an interLATA call, the caller will reach a Southern Bell operator who is unable to provide assistance and will instruct the caller to dial "00" or to dial his interexchange carrier's customers service number for assistance. She testified that if the interLATA interexchange carrier has subscribed to OTS, Southern Bell can transfer the caller to his designated carrier and prevent the caller from having to make a second call.

Ms. Harber further testified that an interexchange carrier must subscribe to the OTS service in order for a call to be transferred and that the subscribing carrier, not the caller, will be charged the proposed tariff rate of \$.35 for each call transferred. Ms. Harber explained that \$.20 of this proposed rate is attributable to the actual cost of OTS and that the remaining portion of the charge will subsidize local exchange service. Ms.

Harber testified that BellSouth has obtained Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval of OTS on an interstate basis and that the rate approved was \$.35 per OTS call.

Mr. Allen testified that he did not oppose the OTS offering. He explained, however, that he was concerned that interexchange carriers would ultimately obtain permission from the FCC to charge their customers the cost of the Operator Transfer Service thru the interstate access charge. Additionally, Mr. Allen testified that, in his opinion, a \$.15 profit per transfer was excessive.

After thorough consideration of the testimony presented, the Commission hereby approves Southern Bell's proposed revisions to its access tariff to introduce Operator Transfer Service. The Commission finds that OTS will benefit Southern Bell's customers by allowing Southern Bell operators to directly access the customer's preferred interexchange carrier for interLATA calls. The Commission finds this service will provide the customer with convenient access to his interexchange carrier.

The Commission further approves the \$.35 charge per OTS call. The Commission finds that while a \$.15 profit per call is fairly substantial, this revenue from an optional service will help maintain rate stability of the local exchange rates. While the Commission recognizes Mr. Allen's valid concern that at some point in time interexchange carriers may attempt to pass through the \$.35 charge to their customers, the evidence of record indicates that, at the present time, the interexchange carrier will be charged for and pay for OTS calls, even though that interexchange

carrier customer receives the benefit of not having to place a second call to his interexchange carrier. The Commission further finds that it cannot predict how interexchange carriers might handle OTS charges or the impact of those charges in the future. Finally, the Commission recognizes that OTS is an optional service and that consumers may choose an interexchange carrier which does not subscribe to this service.

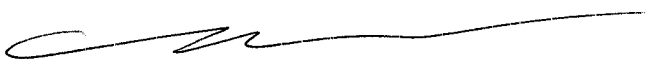
Accordingly, the Commission hereby approves Southern Bell's request for revisions to its access tariff to introduce Operator Transfer Service and approves the tariff revisions as filed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)